

**Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee**

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DRAFT Minutes – March 24, 2016

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VERNON TOWN CLERK**

Present: Members: Ginny Gingras, Joe King, George Arthur, Ann Letendre
Staff: not present

16 SEP 23 AM 9:04

Meeting at 120 South St, Lottie Fisk Building.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Ann Letendre, following the Friends HRLP meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of January 22, 2016 regular meeting, and the Feb. 10th Special Meeting were approved; motion by Joe, second by George, approved unanimously.

2. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Trail Reports

- a. Refer to Arthur and Bellingham reports (attached) for details; highlights are (1) that the dedication of the mural is planned for June 4th, from 11 am to 1pm; and (2) George looked at the Pleasantview boardwalk site after the rains and determined 4 boardwalks are needed.

B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas (see Arthur and Bellingham Reports, attached)

- a. Dart Hill South to Lyman Bridge – George reported that the trail at Hockanum Mansions is still in need of repair, several areas of erosion and the fabric filter is exposed, can be dangerous
- b. Dart Hill North to WPCA OK
- c. Walgreen Corner George noted someone has cleaned the area; Ginny will follow up to find out who did the work.
- d. Saxony Mill Park OK
- e. Paper Mill Corner Park OK
- f. West Main St OK
- g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) OK

C. Current Projects – Status

**a. Friends HRLP Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk
Windsorville Rd Trail Bridge:**

The Action Plan was reviewed as outlined at the January meeting.

BRIDGE

- 1. Target completion date is August 31st. Construction work is planned for Saturdays July and August.
- 2. Dave will put together a materials list; he will get a quote for native wood, oak or locust. Materials will be purchased by early July.
- 3. Ann will meet with Dave to plan out a detailed construction schedule.
- 4. Construction basic steps: excavate for two bases for two tier towers; build towers, using cement blocks and/or concrete; string cables; install decking; install safety rails.
- 5. Dave will talk to Bob Grassis about stockpiling materials and excavation material on the WTP site. (? is there room on the site itself?)
- 6. Access is needed to other side of river and to bring materials to the other side of the river; if the rail trail is widened, we should be able to bring in a vehicle (bobcat?) from the Ellington Y trail. George, Ann and Ginny arranged to walk the trail after the meeting to determine needed work.
- 7. Craig will look into the need/requirements for a wetlands permit.
- 8. Don has begun to line up volunteers for the Saturday construction workdays.
- 9. Ellington wants to create a trail loop from the "Y", and so wants to go along Rt 74 from bridge to Franklin Ave. Bruce will be meeting with Ellington personnel and will get better definition of what they want to do.

BOARDWALK

1. Target completion date - April 30, 2017.
2. Ann will get a revised quote from Laurie for a 4 ft-wide walk.
3. There may be a possibility of building it ourselves using steel pipes and decking. George looked into it, and has a rough estimate of material costs at \$4,000. George reported that he is looking into used bleacher seats as material; he will have Gary Leavit, civil engineer, look at the material. George noted that the boardwalk will be under water during the spring. George visited the site after spring rains and determined that four boardwalks and one short bridge would actually be needed for the area. He prepared a report on materials and boardwalk construction.
4. Whittenbury Golf Course in Bloomfield has a boardwalk we may want to check out.

Pleasantview to Manchester Property Easements needed: no new action

Pleasantview Boardwalk – Trail clearing, parking lot, wetland delineation. The parking lot construction has been completed; the Friends HRLP will look at the site to determine location of a wooden guard rail fencing.

- b. **Integration of HRLP Master Plan trails into the Lyman Farm proposed development**
Ann reported that George, Joe and Ann spoke in support of the project at the public hearing, given the concessions of the developer to provide 400 feet buffer along the river; provide trails along the river as depicted in the HRLP Master Plan; treat all stormwater runoff on-site, no drainage into the river. The PZC approved the application, with the stipulations.

D. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications

- a. Rockville Heritage Trail Extension – Talcott Park – no discussion
- b. 19 Grove Street – Ann noted again that the HRLP Master Plan shows a trail going through that site, and that it will make a great urban park area; and that a landscape designer should be hired to plan the project, which we could probably do under a grant.

E. River Protection: Actions, Public Education - George reported that a hike is planned for Trails Day, June 4th at the Tankerhoosen Wildlife Management Area.

F. Blueways Trail – No Activity. Bruce said Jerry Kinsman expects to restart work this summer.

3. New Business –

- a. Ed Dresner Memorial – Ginny will re-arrange a new time

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am, motion by Ginny, second by George.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Letendre, Chairman

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT Jan 22, 2016 to March 24, 2016

Mural Project at Route 84 Underpass

Meeting of Mural Committee held on Tuesday Mar 19, 2016 for organizing June 4 dedication ceremonies. Used meeting notes for Jan 19, 2016 meeting with Rich Durkee from Parks and Rec as an agenda. We essentially discussed: guest speakers, specifics of exhibits, start time options for the event and coordinating with Parks and Rec. One tagging event took place on the bricks adjacent to the mural and was corrected by painting over the graffiti. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 14 at 6:00 PM.

BESB Outing for 2016

The outing for middle school aged kids from the Board of Education School for the Blind from all over Ct originally announced in my last report will not take place for 2016 at Valley Falls Park. They decided to hold the event elsewhere.

Vernon Greenways Volunteers Management Team

Because I am the only person who knows the Vernon Greenways Volunteers, I invited three members (John Horan, Bruce Luddy and Joe King) to form a Management Team. We met on March 15th to discuss the form this will take. I provided an overview of the organization both factual and conceptual. It may be as simple as putting a contact and order list together so that should my situation change, there is a base from which to move forward to their taking an active part in managing the organization. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5th.

George Arthur Report January 22, 2016 to March 24, 2016

I inspected the planned HRLP trail from the Mansions to Pleasantview Dr on the day after some heavy rain and came to the following conclusions. The muddy sections were in worse shape than I thought. A primary reason was that bicycles have been using the trail after the rains and have tracked up the areas. The boardwalks listed as items 2,3 and 4 will be needed in these sensitive areas.

1. Just a reminder – a new major bridge will be required above the existing concrete bridge. Equipment might be needed and some special materials and possibly concrete.
2. A 24 foot long boardwalk will be needed immediately south of the concrete bridge for use during wet times. It will have one right angle turn in it.
3. An 36 foot long boardwalk will be needed approx 440 ft south of the bridge for use during wet times. It detours around a large tree. It will have one right angle turn in it.
4. A 12 foot boardwalk is needed just before the stream that flows west into the river at 580 feet south of the concrete bridge.
5. A wooden bridge about 16 ft long will be needed to cross the west flowing stream at 580 ft south. A metal grate might provide a substitute crossing.
6. Another reminder – an elevated boardwalk approximately 200 feet long will be needed to cross the swamp immediately north of the new parking lot at Pleasantview Dr. At least one turn will be required and probably ramps at each end. Some equipment and special poles might be needed.
7. The actual trail path will have to be widened and orange blazes will have to be painted.

There will be an opportunity for man-hours to be contributed toward the grant.
I will prepare a document with some design suggestions and some cost estimates.